

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, (HENRY A. KISSINGER)

SUBJ: THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PANAMA

REF: A) PANAMA 738 B) PANAMA 769

SUMMARY. MORE THAN 100,000 PANAMANIANIANS FILLED STREET OF PANAMA CITY TO APPLAUD, CHEER AND GIVE SECRETARY AN UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY WELCOME. GOP OFFICIALS WERE GRATIFIED BY HIS PRESENCE, PLEASED WITH HIS REMARKS PLEDGING A NEW AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TREATY RELATIONSHIP, AND PROUD THAT PANAMA HAD BEEN CHOSEN AS SITE FOR MAJOR U S POLICY STATEMENT WHICH WAS TELEVISED LIVE HEMISPHERE-WIDE. VISIT WENT AS SCHEDULED WITH MONOR DEVIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PUBLIC ATMOSPHERE: CROWDS SURPASSING ALL EXPECTATIONS TURNED OUT TO RECEIVE THE SECREATRY AND GIVE HIM A FRIENDLY, WARM WELCOME TO PANAMA. WE ESTIMATE THAT UPWARDS OF 100,000 PEOPLE FILLED STREETS TO WELCOME SECRETARY AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOP. ABOUT 4,00 PEOPLE WERE AT THE AIRPORT, AND NUMEROUS CLUSTERS OF PEOPLE WERE STANDING ALONG THE HIGHWAY ON THE WAY TO PANAMA CITY. IN PANAMA CITY SIDEWALKS
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WERE CRODED FOR SEVERAL MILES ALONG THE ROUTE AND ENTIRE LENGTH

OF AVENIDA CENTRAL (ABOUT TWO MILES) WAS SO JAMMED WITH PEOPLE THAT THE CAVALCADE COULD BARELY SEQUEEZE THROUGH. A HOLIDAY ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED IN THE STREETS. PEOPLE WAVED PANAMANIAN FLAGS AND THERE WERE BANNERS AND PLACARDS BEARING SLOGANS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR GENERAL TORRIJOS AND PANAMA'S STRUGGLE FOR THE RETURN OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL ZONE. SOME PLACARDS READ "WELCOME KISSINGER." ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF HOSTILITY OR UNPLEASANTNESS, AND A NUMBER OF PLACARDS READ "WELCOME KISSINGER." OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE THERE WAS A HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF STUDENTS IN THE CROWD AND A FEW BANNERS BEARING ANTI-U S SLOGANS WERE MIXED WITH THOSE PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR TORRIJOS. ONE ISOLATED INCIDENT OCCURRED WHILE THE SECRETARY WAS INSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE. A GROUP OF ABOUT 50-75 STUDENTS GOT THROUGH THE POLICE LINES AND SOME OF THEM DAMAGED CARS. THE POLICE ACTED IMMEDIATELY TO RESTORE ORDER; HOWEVER, THIS SAME GROUP SHOUTED ANTI-U S SLOGANS WHEN THE SECRETARY AND GENERAL TORRIJOS WERE LEAVING THE PALACE. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS THE BASIS FOR THE UPI REPORT WHICH HAS APPEARED IN THE U S PRESS. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER INCIDENT.

2. OFFICIAL PROGRAM: GENERAL TORRIJOS, FOREIGN MINISTER TACK, AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA AND NUMEROUS OTHER OFFICIALS WERE AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT TO MEET THE SECRETARY. THEY RECEIVED THE SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY CORDIALLY AND IMMEDIATELY DEPARTED FOR THE PRESIDENCIA. PRESIDENT LAKAS RECEIVED THE SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND AMBASSADOR SAYRE IN THE PRESENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT SUCRE AND FOREIGN MINISTER (MEMCON FOLLOWS BY CABLE). GOOD HUMOR AND RAPPORT PREVAILED DURING THIS MEETING AND LUNCHEON AFTERWARDS. THE LIST OF PERSONS ATTENDING MEETING WITH LAKAS, LUNCHEON AND THE SIGNING CEREMONY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE REMAINED THE SAME AS PROVIDED IN REF B.

3. THE SIGNING CEREMONY WENT SMOOTHLY AND WAS FOLLOWED BY MINISTER TACK'S BRIEF STATEMENT CONCERNING THE BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT AND THE OCCASION. DURING READING OF PRINCIPLES, PANAMANIAN CHEERED WHEN PRINCIPLE ON RETURN OF JURISDICTION WAS READ. OTHERWISE THEY WERE CALM AND APPLAUDED POLITELY. THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS WAS WELL RECEIVED. SEATED IN CHAIRS NEARBY THE MAIN TABLE WERE MEMBERS OF THE GN GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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STAFF, THE SUPREME COURT, CABINET MINISTERS AND HEADS OF AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES, THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION, THE PRESIDENT AND NINE (9) VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES.

4. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, THE OFFICIAL PARTY, DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND PRIVATE SECTOR GUESTS WERE TAKEN INTO ADJOINING ROOMS. APPROXIMATELY 100 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, MAINLY GOP OFFICIALS AND

DIPLOMATIC CORPS, WERE INTRODUCED TO SECRETARY. GUESTS FROM
PRIVATE SECTOR AND PRESS HAD REFRESHMENTS IN SEPARATE ROOM.
(THIS WAS NOT ON SCHEDULE.) GENERAL TORRIJOS REJOINED THE GROUP
AND SHO
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